



Oregon School Activities Association
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May 6, 2009

To: Superintendents, Principals and Athletic Directors

From: Tom Welter

Subject: Track and Field State Championships

As you know, the Oregon Supreme Court handed down a ruling in May, 2008, regarding religious discrimination in high school activities. This ruling provided a new standard under which requests for modifications to avoid discrimination in the scheduling of events must be analyzed.

We have received requests from students at Amity High School and Roseburg High School who are Seventh Day Adventists to modify our State Track and Field Championships to permit them to participate without violating their religious beliefs, which prevent participation on Saturday. The OSAA Executive Board met this week and, with the assistance of OSAA staff and legal counsel, considered a number of ways in which the essential objectives of the Association could be met and the meet could be staged effectively, while at the same time permitting the student to participate. The Board unanimously concluded that the entire meets could not be moved from their current times and locations. However, the Board determined that if a student qualifies for the state meet and to be consistent with the essential objectives and successful operation of the event, the following modifications will be made:

- 1) If the student qualifies for a field event, that event will be contested on Friday prior to sun down.
- 2) If the student qualifies for any individual running event final, the student will have the option of participating in a timed final following the scheduled 4 X 400 M relay preliminaries on Friday or participating in the scheduled final on Saturday. If the student chooses the timed final on Friday, their time will be inserted into the final results on Saturday, and the appropriate place will be awarded.
- 3) If the student qualifies to a final as a member of a relay team, the team will have the option of participating in a timed final following the scheduled 4 X 400 M relay preliminaries on Friday or participating in the scheduled final on Saturday. If the team chooses the timed final on Friday their time will be inserted into the final results on Saturday, and the appropriate place awarded.

If you have any questions or concerns, please forward them to the OSAA office.

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